

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LEGISLATIVE INTERDEPARTMENTAL GROUP

November 24, 1971

Time and Place: 4:30 p.m. - 7:10 p.m., White House Situation Room

Subject: The Military Assistance Bill, IGA Reports and Other Matters

Participants:

Chairman: John Lehman

State: Mr. David Abshire  
Mr. Thomas Pickering  
Mr. Alexander Schnee  
Mr. Anthony Faunce

Defense: Lt. Gen. George Seignious  
Mr. Rady Johnson

CIA: Mr. John Maury

25X1

AID: Mr. Matthew Harvey

CIEP: Mr. Lawrence Brady

OMB: Mr. Robert Mantel

MORI/CDF per C03354253

White House: Mr. Richard Cook

NSC Staff: Col. Thomas C. Pinckney  
Mr. Robert Hormats  
Mr. James T. Hackett

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

CONFIDENTIAL

2

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss, item by item, the most objectionable provisions of the military assistance bill reported out by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on November 8 and to divide them into three categories:

- a. those that must be removed or the President will veto,
- b. those that are highly objectionable and should be removed if at all possible, and
- c. those that are objectionable but negotiable.

It was agreed to place ten items in category A, and twelve each in categories B and C. It was also agreed that the talkers for use in presenting the administration position on the Hill would be prepared as follows: 12 by AID, 11 by State, 5 by DOD, 4 by OMB, 1 by NSC and 1 by CIEP. In the interests of rapid action and because of the Thanksgiving holiday, lists of the 34 items by category, and separate lists showing agency responsibility for each item, were prepared and delivered to the action officer on November 26.

Three other items were discussed at the meeting:

1. A request by the Moorhead Subcommittee of the House for a copy of the Administration's projections for the Vietnam economic program.

It was pointed out that the document containing the projections was prepared for internal use only, and included frank discussion and recommendations that could cause serious difficulties if released to the Congress. All present agreed that the document in question should not be provided to Cong. Moorhead.

2. A request by Senator Proxmire that all reports of the Inspector General for Foreign Assistance be sent directly to him upon their completion.

Mr. Anthony Faunce of the office of the Inspector General for Foreign Assistance attended the meeting for the purpose of discussing this problem. He explained various options and asked for guidance. After considerable discussion in which Faunce, Abshire, Johnson and Lehman were the principal participants, it was agreed that the following procedures would be instituted to deal with all subsequent requests from Congress for IGA reports:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3

When preparing a report, the office of the IGA will first prepare a "draft working paper." This will be submitted to all interested agencies for clearance or revision. The agencies will be informed that they must notify the IGA within 20 days of receiving the draft working paper if they have any proposed revisions. They then have 10 more days, or a total of 30 days, to submit their final revisions to the IGA. When all revisions have been incorporated into the draft working paper, it may then be considered a report and submitted to Senator Proxmire. If the agencies do not respond within 20 days, the document will be released as drafted to the Congress after 30 days. Any disputes regarding proposed revisions will be submitted to the LIG for resolution. If any agency judges that matters involving executive privilege are raised in the draft working paper, the question of whether executive privilege applies will be submitted to the Justice Department and thence to the White House for decision, according to established procedures. In the event of either a dispute regarding the text or a claim of executive privilege, no report will be sent to Congress until the matter is resolved.

Mr. Faunce suggested that he call on Senator Proxmire to inform the Senator of this procedure, but it was agreed that this was unnecessary. Mr. Faunce was asked to prepare a draft of the new procedure and submit it to the LIG for approval.

3. The third item discussed was the legislation providing funds for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

Mr. Abshire said the bill is about to come out of committee and that a Presidential letter to the committee is not necessary at this time. It was agreed to take no action on the matter.

CONFIDENTIAL